(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reasons for the widening of the gap between exports and imports?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) As per the Directorate of Commercial Intellegence & Statistics (DGCI&S) data, the balance of trade during the last 5 years was as follows:—

Year	Us $ million
1993-94	(-) 1069
1994-95	(-) 2324
1995-96	(-) 4881
1996-97	(-) 5662
1997-98(P)	(-) 6799

(P) Provisional

(b) and (c) The trade deficit increased from US $ 2496 million during April-September, 1997-98, to US $ 4991 during April-September, 1998-99.

(d) The widening of gap has been due both to a slow down in export growth and to increase in imports especially that of gold and silver.

Revamping of Export Promotion Councils

18. Dr. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government propose to revamp various Export Promotion Councils in a bid to streamline their operations and lift sagging exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) Whether there is any proposal to formulate comprehensive Model-bye-laws for the smooth functioning of various Export Promotion Councils; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith other measures proposed to be taken to push up the volume of exports?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) The performance of Export Promotion Councils is reviewed on a regular basis with special reference to the mandate given to them. Government is continuously making efforts to strengthen these Councils to enable them to cater to the needs of the exporting community in an effective manner.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A Sub-Committee has been constituted to look into this matter. Their recommendations are under consideration.

Export and Import of Sugar

19. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) What is the total quantity of sugar exported from India during the last three years till date, quantity-wise, country-wise and value thereof;

(b) whether Govt. also imported sugar during the period; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, quantity-wise, country-wise alongwith value thereof till date?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) The total quantity & value of sugar exported and imported during the last three years is as under:

Quantity: in Tonnes
Value: Rs. in Lakhs

Year	Exports		Imports	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
1995-96	434320	59734	150630	21589
1996-97	667274	86080.03	2131	318.04
1997-98	175081	24060.24	330248	44337.14
1998-99 (April August)	2409	340.71	325840	44096.66

(Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta)

(c) Country-wise details of exports and imports are available in monthly/annual number of Foreign Trade Statistics of India published by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S), Calcutta, copies of which are available in Parliament Library.

Indo-Myanmar Trade Treaty

20. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the terms and conditions of the Indo-Myanmar Trade Treaty;

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that this Treaty has indirectly affected the daily earners of our country who belong to the poorest of the poor;